

Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources
Report on the NMFS Logbook Program for the
American Samoa Longline Fishery
January-March 2006

September 21, 2006

Logbook data in this report are summarized by date of haul as shown in the following table. All submitted logbook data for longline activities during the first quarter of 2006 have been processed and are reported in this preliminary report. As of September 21, 2006, the documented delinquency rate according to the DMWR Daily Effort Census and Delinquency Reporting System for the first quarter of 2006 was 1.82%. The summary data in this report are considered preliminary and subject to change as additional delinquent data are received and processed.

According to the Daily Effort Census, 25 vessels were engaged in longline fishing during the first quarter of 2006 and 22 of these vessels turned in some or all of their longline logs for sets made during the quarter. These 22 vessels made 1,027 sets and set 2,836,630 hooks. This quarter reflects the trend in American Samoa toward a smaller number of vessels of larger size setting more hooks. The number of vessels participating this quarter is down from the 24 vessels fishing in the 1st Quarter of 2005, yet the number of sets increased by 57% and the number of hooks set almost doubles with a 98% increase /compared to the year ago quarter. The average number of hooks per set decreased slightly from 2779 in the 4th Quarter of 2005 to 2762 this quarter, reflecting the continued demise of the alia longline fleet and the dominance of the large longline vessels. Many of the alias are no longer active and those that are active are bottomfishing. The demand and price/pound for bottomfish is higher in the local Samoan market than it is for pelagic fish and bottomfishing requires less fuel, bait and equipment.

The total catch for all species of 60,640 fish was 3 ½ times the 17210 fish caught during the really bad first quarter of 2005. Albacore continued to dominate the catch with 35,141 fish caught in the first quarter of 2006. This is less than half or down 52% from to 73,800 albacore caught in the fourth quarter of last year. Catches of other species also increased dramatically when compared to the bad year ago quarter. Skipjack tuna catches increased by 3.19 times, yellowfin tuna catches increased by 7.8 times and bigeye tuna catches increased by 5.28 times the first quarter of 2005 catches. Of the non-tuna species the wahoo catch increase by 2.0 times, the billfish catch increased by 4.18 times and the shark catch increased by 1.18 times the 1st Quarter 2005 values. The only species whose catch decreased was mahimahi and it decreased to 1/4th or 23.7% of its 1st Quarter 2005 value.

The Catch/1000 hooks or CPUE also increased dramatically when compared to the bad 1st Quarter of 2005 but not as dramatically as the catch because of the larger fishing effort in the 1st Quarter of 2006. Albacore CPUE increased to 1.88 times its value during the bad first quarter of 2005. Skipjack tuna CPUE increased by 1.60 times, yellowfin tuna CPUE increased by 3.93 times and bigeye tuna increased by 2.66 times. For non-tuna species the wahoo CPUE stayed almost the same, the shark CPUE increased by 18% and the billfish CPUE increased by 2.10 times. The only species whose CPUE decreased compared to the bad 1st Quarter of 2005 was mahimahi and its CPUE decreased to 11.8% of its 1st Quarter of 2005 value.

Western Pacific Logbook Summary Report for 1st Quarter 2006

Vessels landing or based in American Samoa

Based on Date of Haul for all areas

TRIP INFORMATION

| | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Number of Vessels: | 22 |
| Number of Sets: | 1027 |
| 1000's of Hooks Set: | 2837 |
| Number of Lightsticks Used: | 9001 |

CATCH INFORMATION

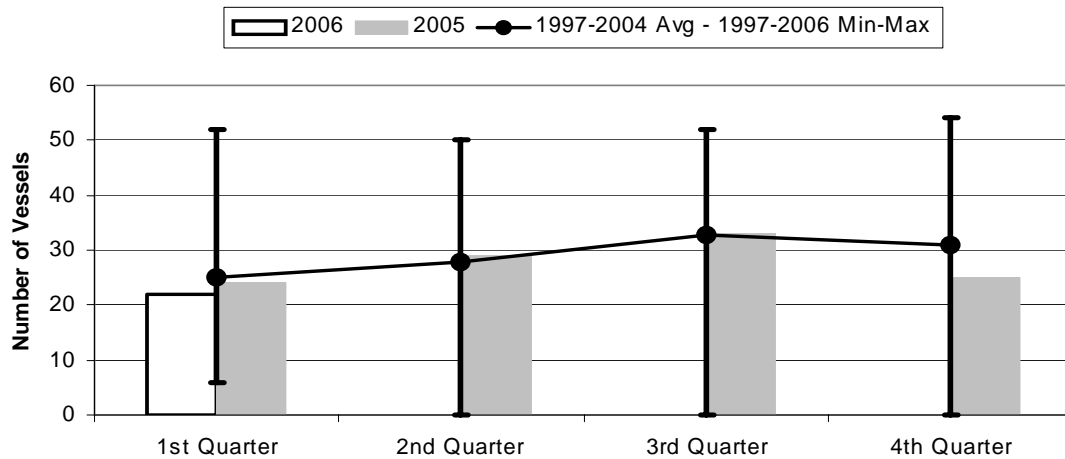
| Species | # Caught | # Kept | # Finned | # Caught/ 1000 Hooks |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|-------------------------|
| BILLFISH | | | | |
| Black marlin | 1 | 1 | | 0.00 |
| Blue marlin | 623 | 101 | | 0.22 |
| Striped Marlin | 127 | 57 | | 0.04 |
| Sailfish | 140 | 1 | | 0.05 |
| Spearfish | 145 | 3 | | 0.05 |
| Swordfish | 471 | 432 | | 0.17 |
| TOTALS | 1507 | 595 | | 0.53 |
| SHARKS | | | | |
| Blue shark | 1146 | 6 | | 0.40 |
| Shortfin Mako Shark | 58 | 1 | | 0.02 |
| Thresher Shark | 64 | 0 | | 0.02 |
| White Tip Oceanic Shark | 351 | 2 | | 0.12 |
| Other Pelagic Sharks | 138 | 0 | | 0.05 |
| TOTALS | 1757 | 9 | | 0.62 |
| TUNA | | | | |
| Albacore | 35141 | 35083 | | 12.39 |
| BigeyeTuna | 2437 | 2240 | | 0.86 |
| Bluefin Tuna | 10 | 10 | | 0.00 |
| Skipjack Tuna | 6579 | 5866 | | 2.32 |
| Yellowfin Tuna | 7419 | 7371 | | 2.62 |
| TOTALS | 51586 | 50570 | | 18.19 |
| OTHER PELAGICS | | | | |
| Mahimahi | 97 | 90 | | 0.03 |
| Moonfish | 154 | 59 | | 0.05 |
| Oilfish | 936 | 37 | | 0.33 |
| Pomfret | 222 | 35 | | 0.08 |
| Wahoo | 4367 | 4302 | | 1.54 |
| TOTALS | 5776 | 4523 | | 2.04 |
| NON-PMUS | | | | |
| Other Pelagic Fish | 9 | 7 | | 0.00 |

Western Pacific Logbook Summary of Protected Species Interactions for 1st Quarter 2006

For vessels landing or based in American Samoa
Based on Date of Haul

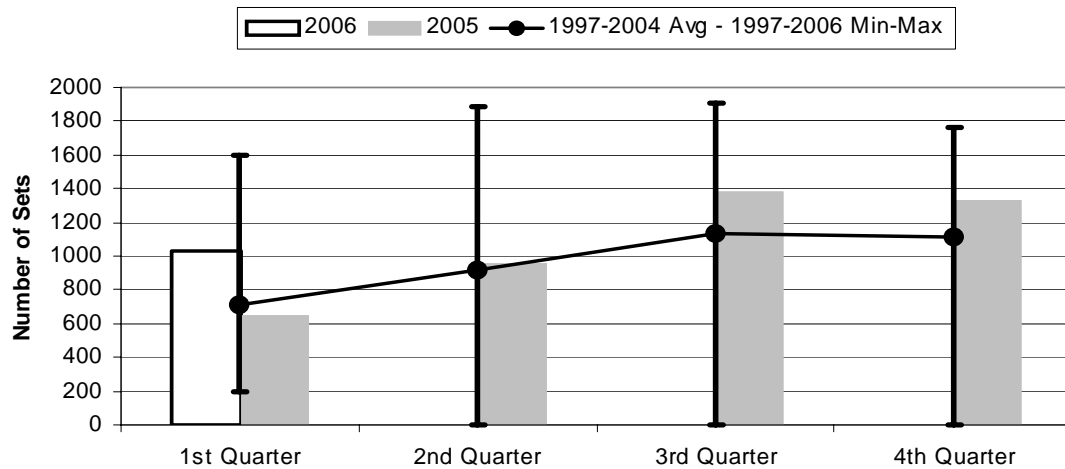
| Species | Alive | Injured | Dead | TOTAL |
|------------------------|-------|---------|------|-------|
| SEALS | | | | |
| Monk Seal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sea Lion | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Seals | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| DOLPHINS | | | | |
| Bottlenose Dolphin | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Spinner Dolphin | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Dolphins | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| WHALES | | | | |
| Humpback Whale | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| False Killer Whale | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Whales | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TURTLES | | | | |
| Green Turtle | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Leatherback Turtle | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Loggerhead Turtle | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Olive Ridley Turtle | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hawksbill Turtle | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hardshell Turtles | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| BIRDS | | | | |
| Blackfoot Albatross | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Laysan Albatross | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Short-Tailed Albatross | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Moonfish | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Figure 1. American Samoa Longline Vessels Submitting Logs by Quarter for



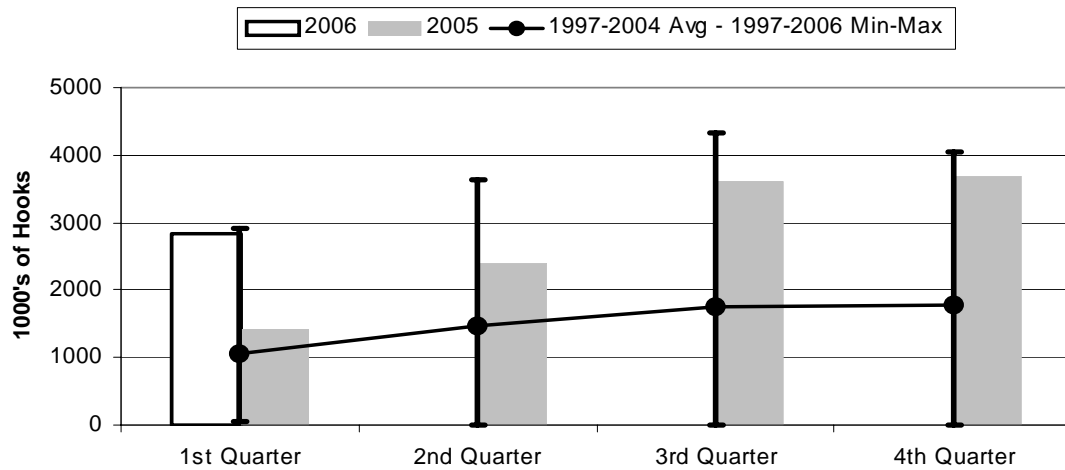
| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 24 | 29 | 33 | 25 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 52 | 50 | 52 | 54 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 25.0 | 27.9 | 32.9 | 31.0 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Figure 2. Number of Sets by American Samoa Longline Vessels by Quarter for



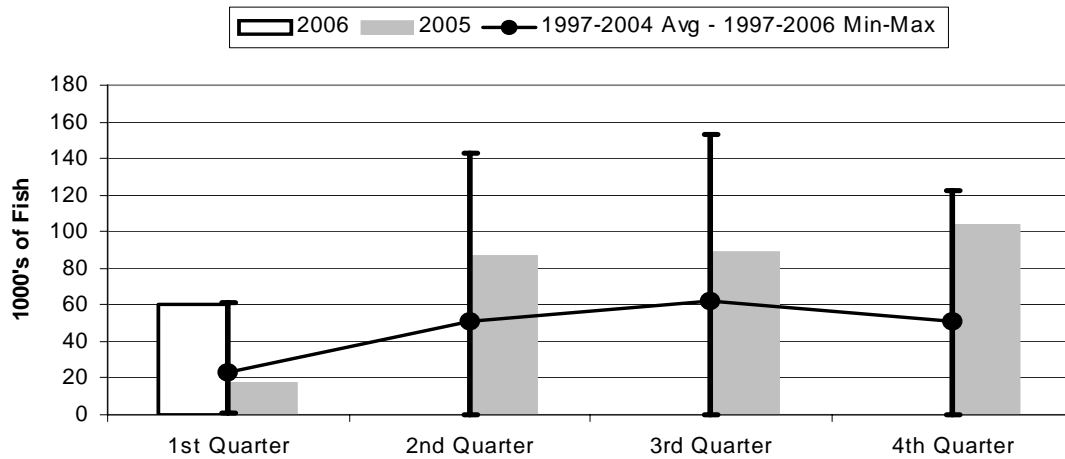
| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 1027 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 654 | 956 | 1383 | 1326 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 1602 | 1886 | 1903 | 1758 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 715 | 913 | 1130 | 1110 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 192 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Figure 3. Number of Hooks Set by the American Samoa Longline Fleet by Quarter for



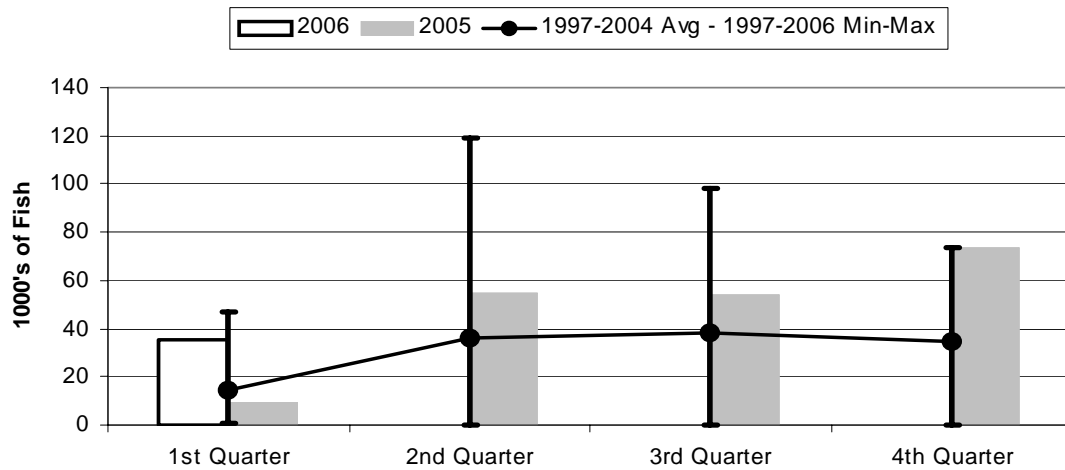
| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 2837 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 1429 | 2400 | 3605 | 3685 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 2902 | 3629 | 4338 | 4044 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 1044 | 1462 | 1751 | 1766 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 41 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Figure 4. American Samoa Longline Total Catch (All Species) by Quarter for



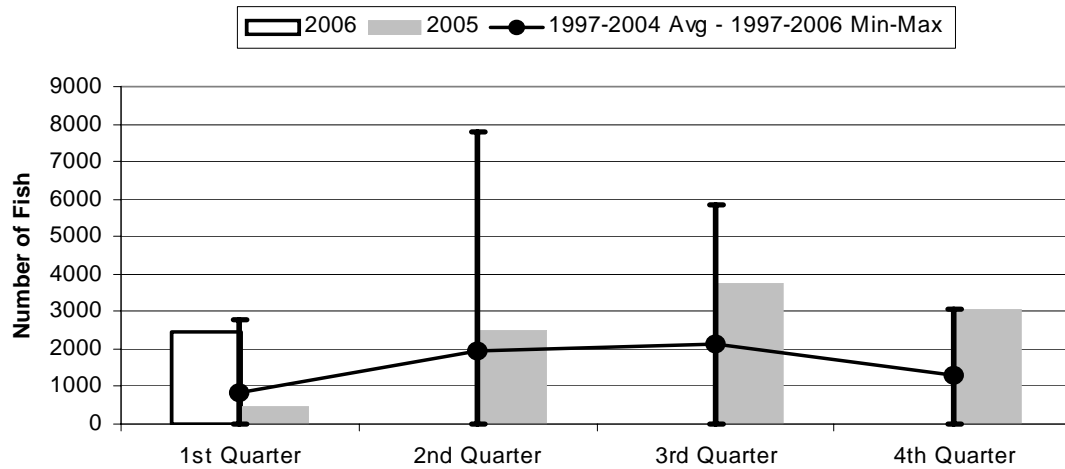
| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 60.64 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2005 | 17.21 | 87.16 | 88.71 | 104.31 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 61.24 | 142.60 | 153.30 | 122.34 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 22.92 | 50.84 | 62.07 | 51.24 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 1.32 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Figure 5. American Samoa Longline Albacore Catch by Quarter for



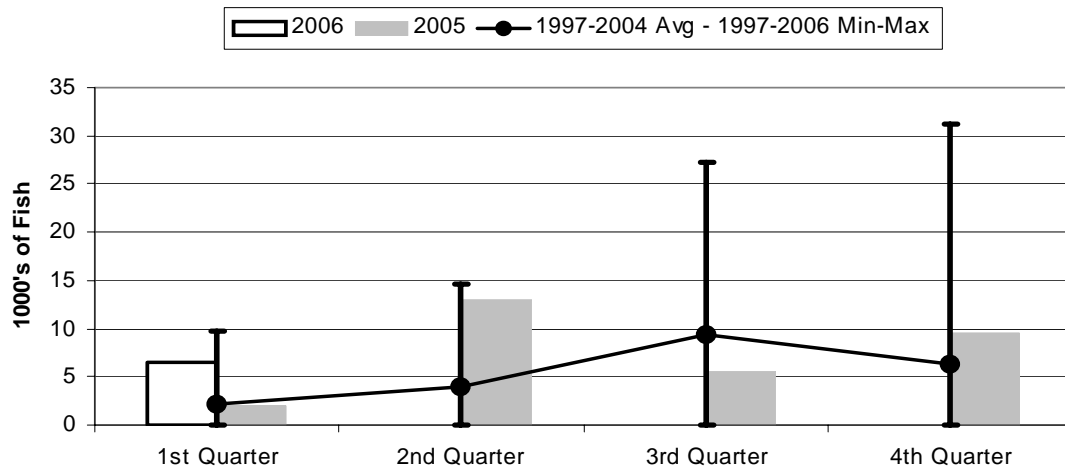
| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 35.14 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2005 | 9.42 | 54.90 | 54.46 | 73.80 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 46.98 | 118.99 | 98.09 | 73.80 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 14.41 | 35.94 | 37.92 | 34.80 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 0.94 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Figure 6. American Samoa Longline Bigeye Tuna Catch by Quarter for



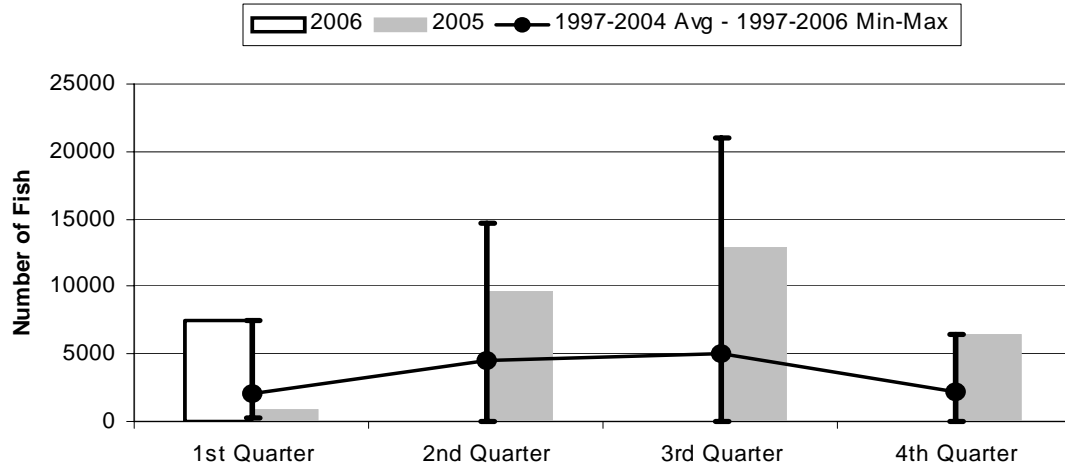
| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 2437 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 461 | 2489 | 3742 | 3060 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 2781 | 7785 | 5834 | 3060 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 821 | 1960 | 2137 | 1322 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Figure 7. American Samoa Longline Skipjack Tuna Catch by Quarter for



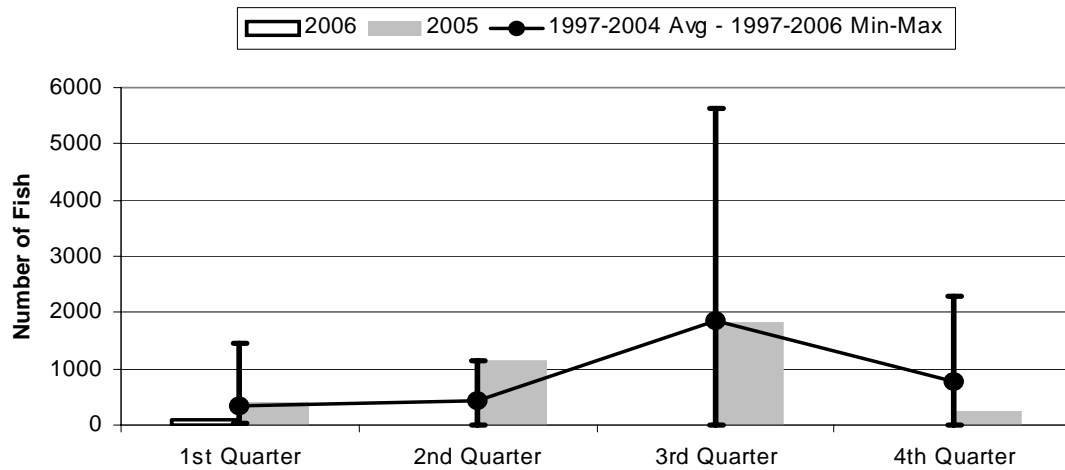
| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 6.58 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2005 | 2.06 | 12.93 | 5.64 | 9.55 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 9.81 | 14.61 | 27.23 | 31.19 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 2.22 | 3.92 | 9.32 | 6.32 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Figure 8. American Samoa Longline Yellowfin Tuna Catch by Quarter for



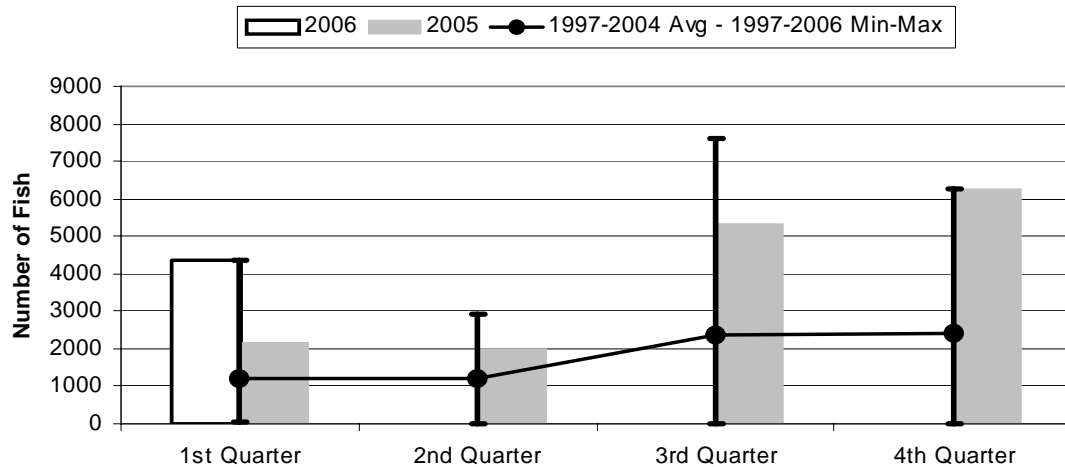
| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 7419 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 951 | 9680 | 12944 | 6480 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 7419 | 14681 | 20993 | 6480 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 2088 | 4486 | 5015 | 2177 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 213 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Figure 9. American Samoa Mahimahi Catch by Quarter for



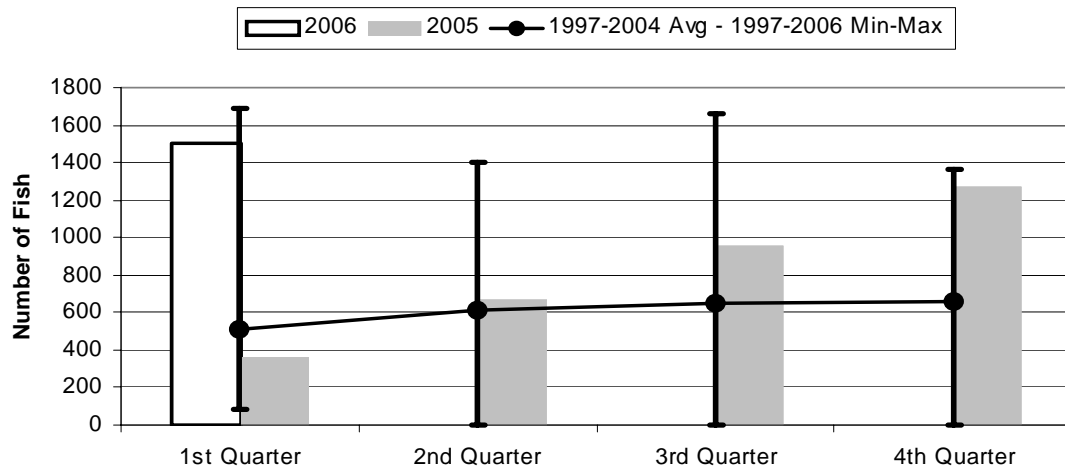
| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 97 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 409 | 1154 | 1813 | 235 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 1455 | 1154 | 5642 | 2297 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 330 | 437 | 1862 | 769 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Figure 10. American Samoa Wahoo Catch by Quarter for



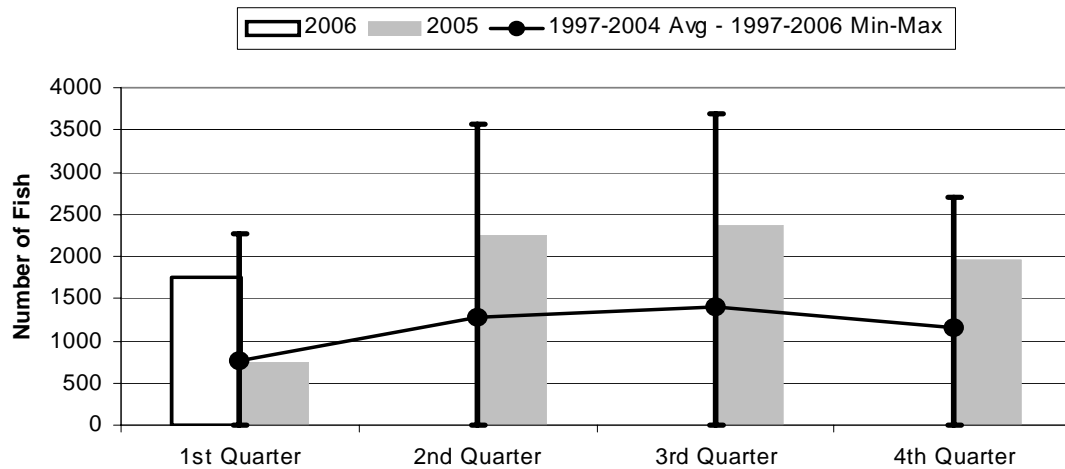
| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 4367 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 2158 | 2007 | 5341 | 6267 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 4367 | 2921 | 7629 | 6267 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 1202 | 1183 | 2349 | 2405 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Figure 11. American Samoa Billfish Catch by Quarter for



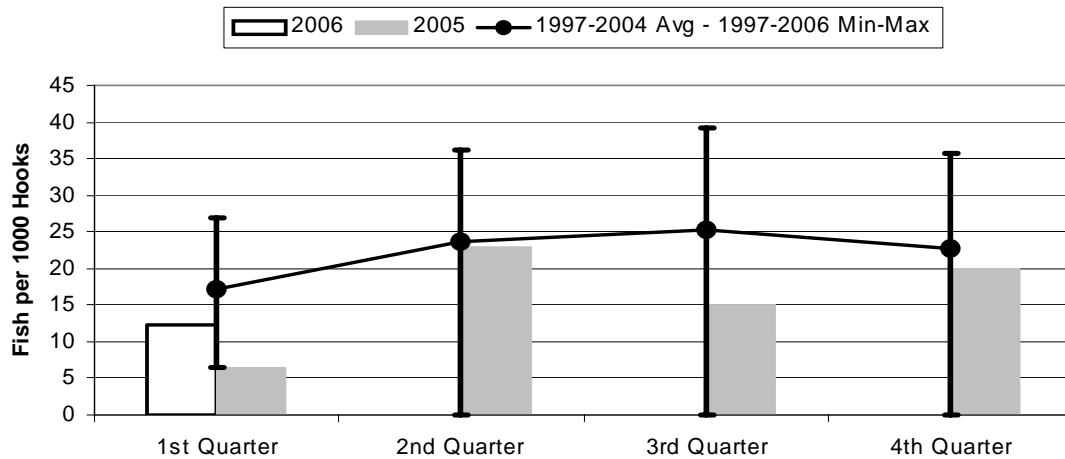
| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 1507 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 360 | 668 | 958 | 1268 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 1692 | 1404 | 1663 | 1361 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 509 | 615 | 645 | 655 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 83 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Figure 12. American Samoa Shark Catch by Quarter for



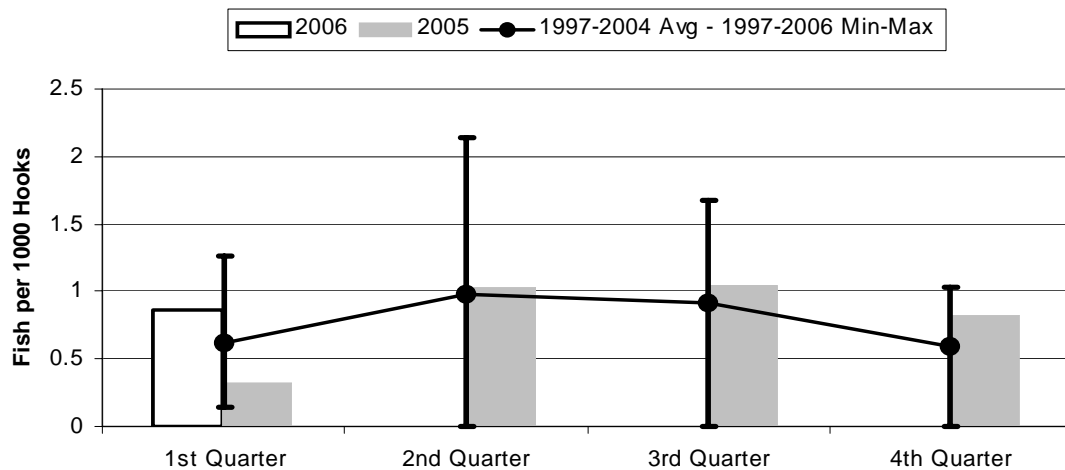
| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 1757 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 747 | 2251 | 2366 | 1969 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 2262 | 3562 | 3686 | 2695 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 767 | 1270 | 1394 | 1152 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Figure 13. American Samoa Longline Albacore Catch/1000 Hooks by Quarter for



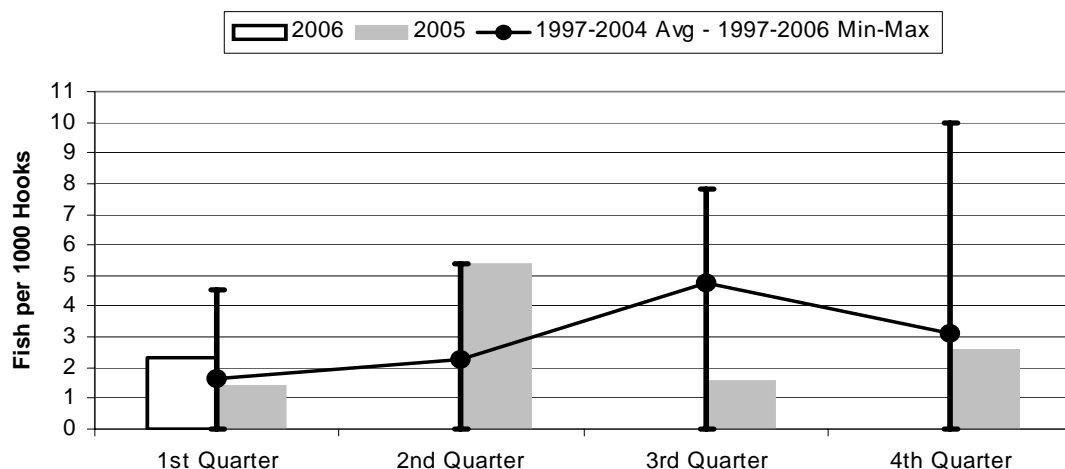
| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 12.39 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2005 | 6.59 | 22.88 | 15.10 | 20.03 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 27.01 | 36.18 | 39.13 | 35.75 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 17.17 | 23.62 | 25.37 | 22.69 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 6.59 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Figure 14. American Samoa Longline Bigeye Tuna Catch/1000 Hooks by Quarter for



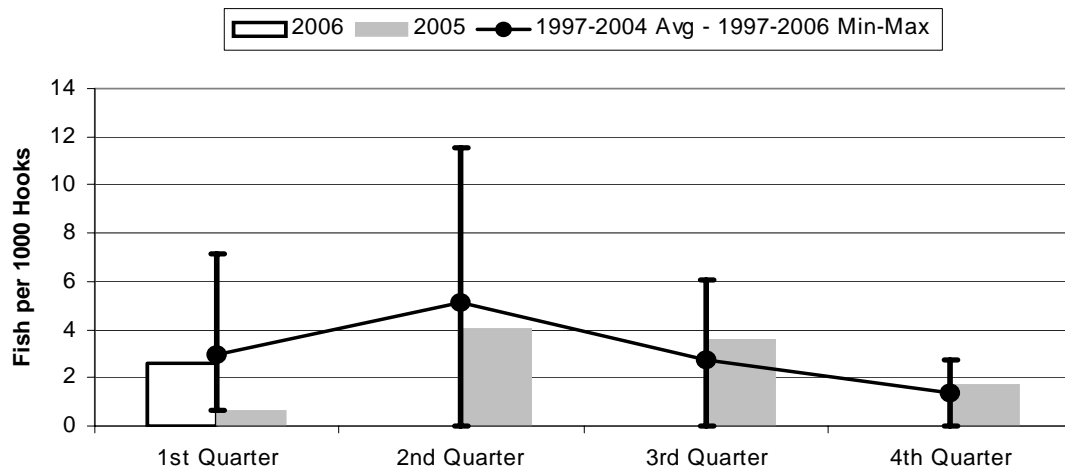
| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 0.859 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 2005 | 0.323 | 1.037 | 1.038 | 0.830 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 1.267 | 2.145 | 1.679 | 1.030 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 0.619 | 0.982 | 0.915 | 0.595 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 0.146 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |

Figure 15. American Samoa Longline Skipjack Tuna Catch/1000 Hooks by Quarter for



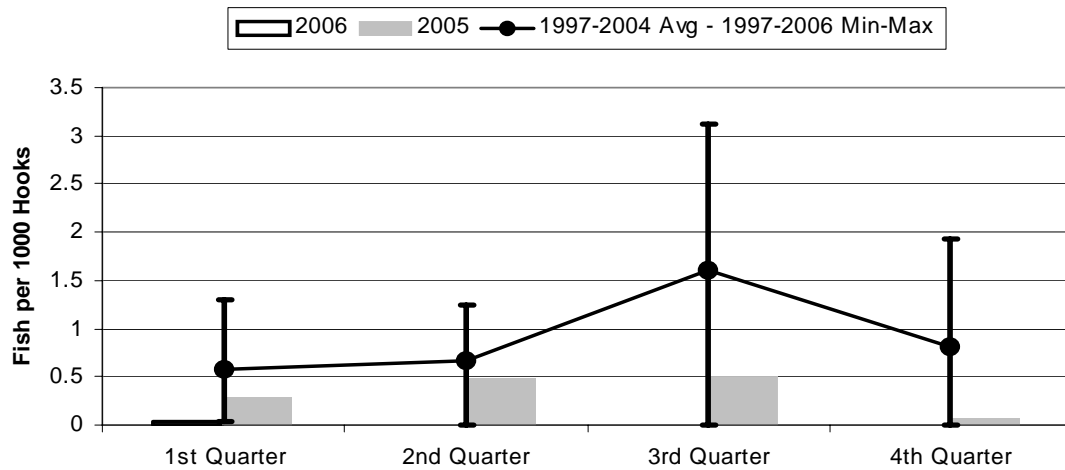
| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 2.319 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 2005 | 1.444 | 5.388 | 1.565 | 2.591 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 4.556 | 5.388 | 7.837 | 9.975 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 1.667 | 2.247 | 4.789 | 3.123 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |

Figure 16. American Samoa Yellowfin Tuna Catch/1000 Hooks by Quarter for



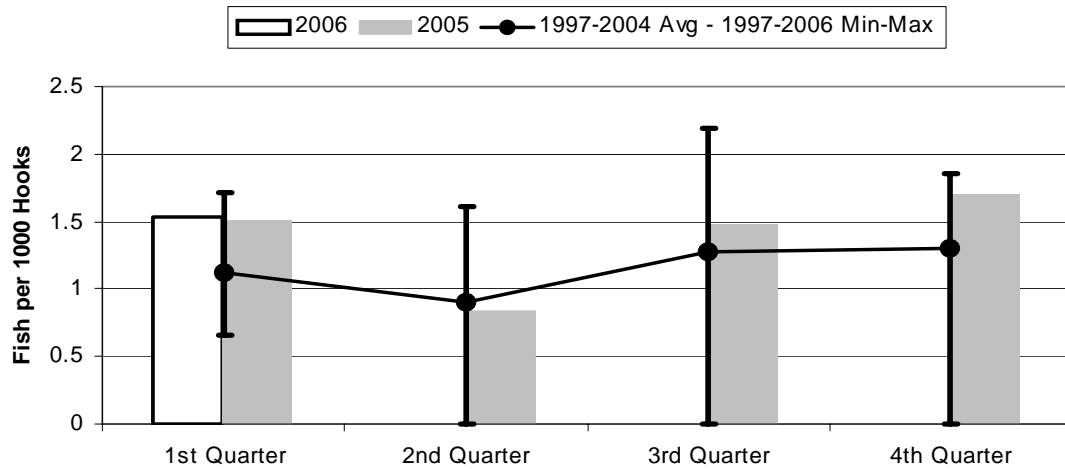
| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 2.615 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 2005 | 0.665 | 4.034 | 3.590 | 1.758 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 7.120 | 11.51 | 6.041 | 2.757 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 2.974 | 5.138 | 2.709 | 1.353 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 0.665 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |

Figure 17. American Samoa Longline Mahimahi Catch/1000 Hooks by Quarter for



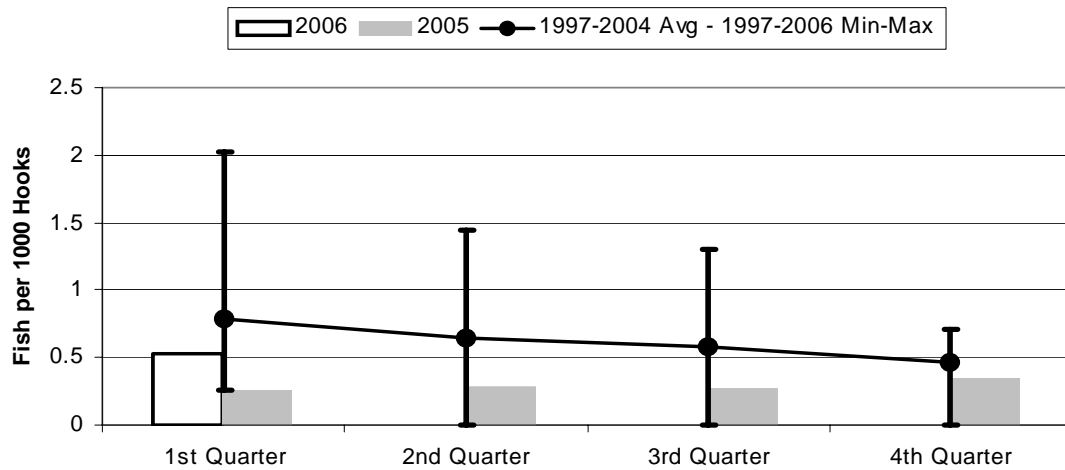
| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 0.034 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 2005 | 0.286 | 0.481 | 0.503 | 0.064 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 1.304 | 1.248 | 3.125 | 1.932 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 0.581 | 0.669 | 1.611 | 0.806 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 0.034 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |

Figure 18. American Samoa Wahoo Catch/1000 Hooks by Quarter for



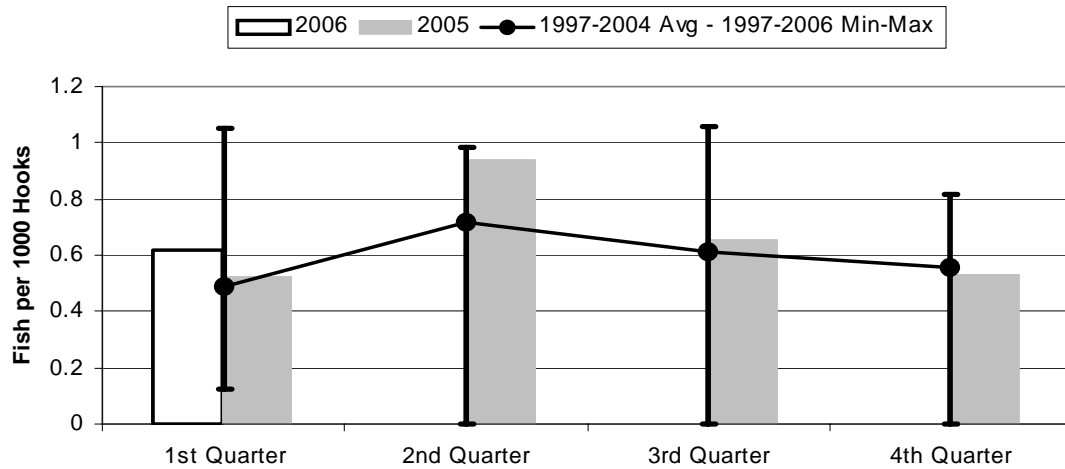
| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 1.540 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 2005 | 1.510 | 0.836 | 1.481 | 1.701 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 1.710 | 1.617 | 2.195 | 1.861 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 1.118 | 0.903 | 1.280 | 1.299 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 0.657 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |

Figure 19. American Samoa Billfish Catch/1000 Hooks by Quarter for



| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 0.531 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 2005 | 0.252 | 0.278 | 0.266 | 0.344 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 2.019 | 1.439 | 1.306 | 0.712 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 0.783 | 0.649 | 0.585 | 0.465 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 0.252 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |

Figure 20. American Samoa Shark Catch/1000 Hooks by Quarter for



| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 0.619 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 2005 | 0.523 | 0.938 | 0.656 | 0.534 |
| 1997-2006 Max | 1.051 | 0.986 | 1.061 | 0.819 |
| 1997-2004 Avg | 0.491 | 0.716 | 0.610 | 0.556 |
| 1997-2006 Min | 0.122 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |